

# ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**December 2, 2004**  
For immediate release

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## **EXCESS PRECIPITATION CAUSES BURLINGTON WASTEWATER BYPASS**

**BURLINGTON** — A temporary pump being used by the City of Burlington during construction of a new sewer project was unable to handle an increased flow of water Monday morning, sending at least three million gallons of diluted wastewater to the Mississippi River.

The city is working on a project to separate its storm sewers from sanitary sewers. As part of the project, a lift station pump was shut down, and a portable pump was installed to send the wastewater flow to the treatment plant. However, the pump could not handle increased storm water flows caused by precipitation over the weekend and Monday, causing water from both the storm sewer and the sanitary sewer to bypass the pump and enter the river.

The contractor started running a second pump at 10:30 Thursday morning, which helped to stop the bypass, according to Don Fitting, superintendent of the Burlington wastewater treatment facility. Work was also done on the sewer outflow gates.

“(We were) applying pressure to the river side of the outflow gates to ensure the gates were seated tightly, to prevent river water from entering the sewer system,” Fitting said.

The pumps are now sending wastewater flows to the treatment plant.

The city has collected samples for fecal coliform bacteria upstream, at the outfall and downstream, and will continue to sample on Friday. Downstream water users and local health officials have been notified.

When completed, the city's \$15 million construction project will improve water quality by eliminating the combined sewer system, creating separate systems for storm water (which is untreated) and a sanitary sewer (treated waste). The project is expected to be completed by January 2005.

"This sewer line doesn't normally bypass unless there's excess precipitation," said Jim Sievers, an environmental specialist with the DNR field office in Washington. "Excessive precipitation rises storm water levels and causes sanitary waste that normally makes it to the treatment plant to mix with storm water and enter the river. The new project will help eliminate these discharges."

High flows in the Mississippi River should work to further dilute the wastewater. Boating activity and human contact with the river is limited, due to the time of year and cold temperatures.

**For more information, contact Russell Royce at (319) 653-2135.**

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## **FIRE HYDRANT SENDS PLUME OF MUD INTO CEDAR RIVER**

WATERLOO — A City of Waterloo fire hydrant failed Thursday morning, sending a plume of mud into the Cedar River.

Water flow from the hydrant, located on River Road, eroded a neighboring embankment and washed across a parking lot at the John Deere Westfield site before entering the river.

The water washed through a receiving area of the John Deere site that normally collects spilled oil and grease before sending it to its treatment plant. This area was relatively clean Thursday morning, and no sheen has been visible on the river. John Deere is taking samples for oil, grease and total suspended solids.

The mud plume is expected to break down in the river quickly.

The release of about 50,000 gallons lasted from 10:45 to 11:15.

**For more information, contact Clark Ott at (563) 927-2640.**

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## **PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT FOR LAKE SMITH WATER QUALITY PLAN**

ALGONA — A public meeting is scheduled to obtain local citizen input to improve the water quality of Lake Smith, located north of Algona. This public input meeting is part of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process underway for Lake Smith.

TMDLs are calculations used to determine how much of a pollutant a water body can receive and still maintain its designated use such as maintaining aquatic life, allowing body contact such as swimming or being used as a drinking water supply. Recommendations to improve the water quality are also included as part of the plan.

Lake monitoring the last several years has documented Lake Smith as having excessive growth of algae, impairing lake use for aquatic life. The excessive algal growth is attributed to high levels of phosphorus in the water.

The meeting will be held Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kossuth County Conservation Board (CCB) office as part of the regular CCB meeting. The Kossuth CCB office is located 3.5 miles north of Algona on Highway 169 at Lake Smith.

DNR staff will review the draft TMDL, answer questions and accept comments on the draft plan at the meeting. Comments on the draft plan will be accepted until Jan. 5, 2005.

For additional information on TMDLs and water quality assessments, visit:  
[www.iowadnr.com/water/tmdlwqa/](http://www.iowadnr.com/water/tmdlwqa/)

For more information on the draft Lake Smith TMDL or to submit comments, contact Jerry Neppel at:  
DNR, 502 E. 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319  
(515) 242-6149  
[jerry.neppel@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:jerry.neppel@dnr.state.ia.us)

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## **PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT FOR INDIAN LAKE WATER QUALITY PLAN**

FARMINGTON — A meeting is scheduled to obtain input from local citizens to improve the water quality of Indian Lake near Farmington.

A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is being prepared to improve the water quality of Indian Lake. TMDLs are calculations used to determine how much of a pollutant a water body can receive and still maintain its designated use such as maintaining aquatic life, allowing primary body contact or being used as a drinking water supply. Recommendations to improve water quality are also included as part of the plan.

Monitoring the last several years at Indian Lake has documented severe algal blooms and a fish kill in 2003. High phosphorus levels in the water are attributed to causing the algal blooms and low dissolved oxygen levels in the water contributed to the fish kill.

A draft TMDL for Indian Lake will be presented to the Farmington City Council on Monday, Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m. DNR staff will review the draft TMDL, answer questions and accept comments. Additional comments on the draft plan will be accepted until Jan. 5, 2005.

For additional information on TMDLs and water quality assessments, visit:  
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## **DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**

DES MOINES — The DNR took the following enforcement actions between August and October 2004, unless otherwise noted. Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the charges or 60 days to pay the penalty. The following are only briefs; please contact Jessie Rolph of the DNR for more information at (515) 281-5131.

- Jason Fox, of Audubon, was ordered to comply with manure control requirements and pay a \$1,000 penalty. The order is in regard to applying confinement feeding operation manure to land in April 2004, causing water pollution in David's Creek.
- Garlen E. Perry, Paul Lattin and Percilla Lattin, all of Shenandoah, were ordered to stop open burning, stop improper disposal of solid waste and to properly dispose solid waste remaining at the Richard Perry property. Perry, Lattin and Lattin were also ordered to submit proof of proper disposal of asbestos-containing material from the demolition of the Tall Corn Motel (a.k.a. Country Inn), to comply with asbestos requirements and to pay a \$8,000 penalty. The order is in regard to the demolition of the Tall Corn Motel in Shenandoah. The order has been appealed.
- Acme Fuel and Material Co., d.b.a. Acme Material Co., of Muscatine, was ordered to submit air quality construction permit applications for any and all unpermitted emission units at its facility; to comply with construction permit requirements prior to initiating construction, alteration or modification of equipment; and to pay a \$7,000 penalty. The order has been appealed.
- The City of Kingsley was issued an amended order regarding a compliance schedule for its wastewater facility. The amended order requires the city to comply with the compliance schedule outlined in the order, to complete construction of any facility improvements necessary to meet final effluent limits and to comply with interim effluent limits. All other aspects of the original order remain in effect.

### **Consent Orders**

A consent order is issued in settlement of an administrative order or as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

- Wellington Environmental, of St. Louis, Mo., agreed to a consent amendment regarding asbestos. Wellington agreed in a 2002 consent amendment to hold 12 asbestos awareness training classes throughout Iowa, and six have been completed. Due to a change in the business climate and a sale of a portion of Wellington Environmental, the consent amendment has been amended so that Wellington will hold three more classes. All other aspects of the original orders remain in effect. The consent amendment was agreed to in July.
- Linwood Mining and Materials Corp., of Davenport, agreed to a consent amendment regarding air quality violations, amending an order from 2000. Linwood Mining and Materials agreed to pay a \$10,000 supplemental environmental project (SEP) to Living Lands and Waters, an environmental organization active in the Quad Cities area. The SEP has been paid.
- The City of Lockridge agreed to a consent order regarding its water supply, agreeing to submit plans and specifications for elevated storage and to construct the elevated storage according to a schedule provided in the order.

**For more information, contact Jessie Rolph at (515) 281-5131 or [Jessie.Rolph@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Jessie.Rolph@dnr.state.ia.us).**